

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUBUMB 01016 01 OF 02 181535Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 ACDA-12 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01
AGRE-00 EB-08 COME-00 /120 W
-----030801 181631Z /45

P R 181342Z AUG 78
FM AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2602
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LUBUMBASHI 1016

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CG, PDIP, AO, ETRN, PINS, PINR, MILI
SUBJECT: SITUATION IN SOUTHEASTERN SHABA

REF: LUBUMBASHI 1000 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. IN COMPANY OF METHODIST BISHOP NGOY AND INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS (ICRC) REP HANS NEUKOMM, CONSUL FLEW AUGUST 17 TO SOUTHEASTERN SHABA TOWNS OF KASAJI, DILOLO, AND SANDOA, ALONG ANGOLAN BORDER. MEETINGS WITH MILITARY, CIVILIAN AND CLERGY IN THREE TOWNS PRO-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LUBUMB 01016 01 OF 02 181535Z

DUCED INFORMATION ON VARIETY OF TOPICS, INCLUDING DISARMAMENT, RESETTLEMENT, AND FLIGHT OF UNITA AND FNLA PERSONNEL IN ZAIRE, RETURNEE REFUGEE SITUATION, STATE OF OPERATIONS OF BENGUELA RAILROAD, AND STATE OF PREPAREDNESS OF THE ZAIRE MILITARY ALONG THE BORDER. END SUMMARY.

2. BENGUELA RAILROAD: CONTRARY TO INFORMATION PROVIDED

CONSULATE BY RAILWAY OFFICIALS IN LUBUMBASHI (PARA 4, REFTTEL), BENGUELA RAILROAD IS OPEN AND RUNNING FROM LUBUMBASHI ALL THE WAY TO DILOLO ON THE ANGOLAN BORDER WHERE THE BRIDGE IS DOWN WITH A LOCOMOTIVE ON IT. (ROAD BRIDGE AT BORDER IS ALSO DOWN.) TRAINS ON MUTSHATSHA-DILOLO STRETCH ARE RUNNING ONCE OR TWICE PER WEEK AND FROM LOW FLIGHT ALONG TRACK ALONG MOST OF THAT STRETCH, TRACK, BRIDGES, AND TELEPHONE LINES PARALLELING TRACK LOOKED IN GOOD CONDITION. LITTLE "RAILROAD VILLAGES" STILL LOOKED VIRTUALLY EMPTY COMPARED TO NORMAL LEVEL OF MORNING ACTIVITY IN AN AFRICAN VILLAGE.

3. DISARMAMENT, RESETTLEMENT AND FLIGHT OF UNITA AND FNLA: IN KASAJI, CONSUL MET WITH FORCES ARMEES ZAIROISES (FAZ) LUALABA SUBSECTOR COMMANDER, GENERAL DE BRIGADE MULIMBI MABILO, COMMDER OF THE 12TH BRIGADE OF THE KAMANYOLA DIVISION, AND WITH LUALABA SUBREGION COMMISSAIRE, COLONEL MAKELELE KABUNDA. (SEE BIOGRAPHIC NOTES PARA 7.) IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, GENERAL MULIMBI SAID THAT IN PAST WEEK OR SO FAZ HAD DISARMED AND RESETTLED 110 UNITA AND 85 FNLA PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES IN KASAJI AREA, IN RESPONSE TO ORDERS FROM KINSHASA. UNITA AND FNLA PEOPLE HAD BEEN TOLD BY FAZ THAT FROM HENCEFORTH IF THEY WISHED TO LIVE IN ZAIRE THEY MUST LIVE AS ORDINARY VILLAGERS OR FARMERS. WHEN ASKED HOW UNITA AND FNLA PEOPLE TOOK TO BEING DISARMED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LUBUMB 01016 01 OF 02 181535Z

BY FAZ, MULIMBI RESPONDED THAT SOME 200 UNITA CADRE HAD FLED WITH THEIR ARMS IN ANTICIPATION OF BEING DISARMED WHEN THEY HEARD (FALSE) REPORT THAT UNITA LEADER SAVIMBI HAD BEEN PLACED UNDER HOUSE ARREST IN KINSHASA. MULIMBI SAID THAT FAZ HAD NOT PURSUED UNITA ELEMENTS THAT FLED TO AVOID COMBAT WITH THEM. HE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW EXACTLY WHERE THEY HAD GONE BUT BELIEVED THAT SOME HAD RETURNED TO ANGOLA TO TRY TO REJOIN UNITA ELEMENTS THERE. MULIMBI ALSO SAID THAT FAZ PATROLS HAD NOTED SOME MPLA TROOPS ALONG BORDER NEAR KASAJI. HE SAID THAT FAZ UNDER HIS COMMAND HAD HAD "VIRTUALLY NO" CONTACT WITH REBELS SINCE MAY 27. HE SAID THAT AT PRESENT HIS TROOPS WERE ENFORCING FIFTEEN-KILOMETER CLEAR ZONE ALONG BORDER. MULIMBI SAID HIS FORCE IS AT BATTALION STRENGTH. ANOTHER RESIDENT WESTERN OBSERVER SAID HE ESTIMATED 450 FAZ AT KASAJI.

4. RETURNED ZAIRIAN REFUGEES:

A) NUMBERS: NUMBER QUESTION REMAINS NOT SURPRISINGLY FUZZY FOR KASAJI-DILOLO AREA BUT THOSE COUNTED RUN FROM SIX-TO-TEN THOUSAND. THREE-TO-FIVE HUNDRED ARE CAMPING OUT AT THE INSTITUT KAMANYA NEAR KASAJI AND

ANOTHER 400-500 ARE AT COLGREL, TWELVE MILES AWAY, FOR A TOTAL OF ABOUT 1,000 NEAR KASAJI ITSELF. LUALABA SUB-REGION COMMISSAIRE MAKELELE SAID AROUND 10,000 HAD BEEN COUNTED IN THE SUBREGION BUT THAT HE BELIEVED THAT MANY HUNDRED OTHERS HAD JUST COME BACK WITHOUT BEING COUNTED. HE ESTIMATED RATE OF RETURN FOR PAST TWO WEEKS AT 200 PER DAY. (FAZ NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER IN CHARGE OF COUNTING AT KILOLO TOLD CONSUL THERE THAT 375 HAD COME THROUGH DILOLO AUGUST 16.) A DOCTOR FROM KISENGA (WHERE THE MANGANESE MINES ARE) REPORTED RETURN RATE OF 15 PER DAY AND FIVE HUNDRED RETURNEES ARE REPORTED TO BE QUARTERED ON MISSION GROUNDS IN DILOLO.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUBUMB 01016 02 OF 02 181549Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 ACDA-12 AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01
AGRE-00 EB-08 COME-00 /120 W
-----031205 181631Z /45

P R 181342Z AUG 78
FM AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2603
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LUBUMBASHI 1016

B) RELIEF MEASURES: FAZ ARE IN CHARGE OF DISTRIBUTING RELIEF GOODS IN KASAJI AND DILOLO. IN KASAJI, BOXES OF

VARIOUS KINDS OF FOOD AND OTHER SUPPLIES LABELED "ICRC" AND "GIFT OF BELGIUM" WERE LOCKED IN ROOM TOGETHER WITH FAZ SUPPLIES UNDER ARMED GUARD. FAZ ARE QUARTED IN FORMER HOSPITAL ("NO ONE IS SICK" SAID COLONEL MAKELELE.) AND IN HOUSES OF FORMER MISSIONARY EDUCATIONAL AND MEDICAL PERSONNEL. (ONLY ONE WHO HAS RETURNED SO FAR, DR. ROBERT RAYMOND, IS COMPLAINING BITTERLY TO ALL AND SUNDRY.)
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LUBUMB 01016 02 OF 02 181549Z

MULIMBI AND MAKELELE BOTH COMPLAINED THAT RELIEF SUPPLIES INTENDED FOR KASAJI AND DILOLO NEVER GET PAST KOLWEZI (PROBABLY AT LEAST PARTLY TRUE FROM OUR UNDERSTANDING OF AMOUNTS OF RELIEF SENT AND AMOUNTS REPORTEDLY DISTRIBUTED IN THAT AREA) BUT HOPED THAT SITUATION WOULD IMPROVE AS RAIL TRAFFIC STEPPED UP. AGRICULTURAL TOOLS AND SEEDS ARE ESPECIALLY NEEDED.

C) COMMENT: IT SEEMS FAIRLY CLEAR THAT GOZ COULD REALLY SPEED UP RATE OF RETURN AND PERHAPS GAIN A LITTLE POPULARITY BY PROVIDING RETURNEES WITH EVEN TOKEN AMOUNT OF FOOD AND OTHER ASSISTANCE. END COMMENT.

5. STATE OF FAZ: FAZ COLONEL BANDONGO IN LUBUMBASHI HAD REQUESTED ICRC REP IN WRITING TO VISIT DILOLO (ON ANGOLAN BORDER IN SOUTHEAST CORNER OF SHABA) TO CONSIDER RELIEF POSSIBILITIES, BUT HAD TRIED FOR THREE DAYS UNSUCCESSFULLY TO RAISE DILOLO ON RADIO. PLANE BUZZED TOWN OF DILOLO AND THEN LANDED AT STRIP, SOME SIX MILES FROM TOWN. AFTER PARTY WAITED FOR HALF HOUR, PILOT TOOK OFF ALONE, BUZZED TOWN AGAIN WITH SPECIFIC ATTENTION TO FAZ HEADQUARTERS, AND RETURNED TO STRIP. FORTY-FIVE MINUTES LATER, TWO FAZ NON-COMS ARRIVED BY BICYCLE, COMPLAINING BITTERLY THAT NO ONE IN DILOLO HAD ANY GAS, THERE WAS ONLY ONE VEHICLE OPERABLE ANYWAY, THAT RETURNEES WERE POURING IN, AND THAT THE RADIO HAD NOT WORKED FOR SEVERAL DAYS. DILOLO FAZ UNIT, COMMANDED BY CAPTAIN LUHINDULA TINU KIYANDU, HAD CONTACT WITH KASAJI HEADQUARTERS ONLY BY ONCE WEEKLY TRAIN. FAZ WERE NOT ABLE TO PATROL OUTSIDE OF TOWN. (HIS DESCRIPTION OF SITUATION WAS BORN OUT BY FLIGHT OVER TOWN IN PROCESS OF PHOTOGRAPHING DOWNED BRIDGES.)

6. FOR KINSHASA: STATE OF AIRSTRIPS:
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LUBUMB 01016 02 OF 02 181549Z

A. MUTSHATSHA: PILOT DESCRIBED STRIP AT JUTSHATSHA AS 2,000 FEET USABLE. HOWEVER IT IS IN VISIBLY BAD

CONDITION WITH A CRASHED CESSNA 310 FROM 1977 SHABA WAR STILL ALONGSIDE.

B. KASAJI: STRIP IS USABLE TO ABOUT 2,500 FEET WITH GRASS SURFACE.

C. DILOLO: STRIP IS RED LATERITE, WITH SOME GRASS WHICH FAZ SAID THEY INTENDED TO CLEAR, 1,400 FEET USABLE.

D. SANDOA: STRIP AT SANDOA ABOUT 3,000 FEET USABLE, DIRT SURFACE IN GOOD CONDITION.

7. BIOGRAPHIC NOTES:

A. GENERAL DE BRIGADE MULIMBI MABILO: MULIMBI IS A BIG, AMIABLE BEAR OF A MAN WHO DROVE US AROUND HIMSELF IN HIS LAND ROVER, WITH AUTOMATIC RIFLE LAID UNDER DASH-BOARD. HE HAS BEEN AT KASAJI FOR SIX MONTHS. HE SAID HE WAS FROM KONGOLO (NORTHERN SHABA). HIS WIFE AND FIVE CHILDREN LIVE IN KINSHASA ALTOUGH TWO OF HIS SONS WERE AT KASAJI WITH HIM FOR THE SUMMER.

B. COLONEL MAKELELE KABUNDA: HE HAS BEEN AT KASAJI FOR THREE MONTHS. HE HAD PART OF HIS EDUCATION IN SWITZERLAND AND ATTENDED A NEW YORK UN CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT AS ONE OF ZAIRIAN REPS.
SIMPSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LUBUMB01016
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780338-0583
Format: TEL
From: LUBUMBASHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780849/aaaabouu.tel
Line Count: 246
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a5ec6f61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LUBUMBASHI 1000
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1696727
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SITUATION IN SOUTHEASTERN SHABA
TAGS: PDIP, ETRN, PINS, PINR, MILI, CG, AO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a5ec6f61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014